

VZCZCXRO0132
RR RUEHCHI RUEHDT RUEHNN RUEHPB
DE RUEHHI #0680 0830651
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 240651Z MAR 06
FM AMEMBASSY HANOI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 1221
INFO RUEHHM/AMCONSUL HO CHI MINH CITY 0773
RUEHGT/AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA 0016
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 0006
RUCNARF/ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM

UNCLAS HANOI 000680

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PREL](#) [UN](#) [UNSC](#) [GT](#) [VE](#) [VM](#)
SUBJECT: Vietnam: Officially Still Undecided on Venezuela
UNSC Seat

REF: A) Hanoi 670; B) Hanoi 290; C) State 20173; D) 05 Hanoi
1830

(SBU) At a lunch meeting March 21 (Ref A), the Ambassador asked Vice Foreign Minister Le Van Bang what Vietnam plans to do regarding Venezuela's bid for a UN Security Council seat. VFM Bang replied that there has been no decision yet on that subject, and that Vietnam wants to avoid a situation like the one it found itself in when its promises to support Japan's UNSC bid conflicted with China's request that Vietnam vote against UNSC expansion. The Ambassador noted that it is in Vietnam's interest as a potential non-permanent member of the UNSC to have the strongest possible UNSC, which is a reason to vote for Guatemala. He also reminded Bang that this question is viewed very seriously in Washington. VFM Bang confirmed that the GVN received a note from Guatemala asking for Vietnam's support, but refused to be drawn out any further.

MARINE